

Message Text

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12

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EA-13 IO-03 RSR-01 /059 W

----- 102845

R 020505Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3968

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CDR JCRC NKP RTAFB

CH USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11817

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: TPJMC: PRISONER RELEASES

1. COLONEL NGUYEN VAN KIM, GVN DEL STAFF OFFICER, TPJMC, TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 29 THAT THE PRG DEL AND GVN DEL HAD NOT YET REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF THE REMAINING MILITARY PRISONERS OF WAR; THREE PROBLEMS REMAINED.

2. THE FIRST PROBLEM IS THE LOCATION OF THE RELEASE. THE GVN WANTS TO RELEASE ITS PRISONERS SOUTH OF THE THACH HAN RIVER AT QUANG TRI IN ORDER TO AVOID ACCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT WHICH KILLED TWO ARVN ENGINEERS THE LAST TIME. THE PRG DEL WANTS THE RELEASE NORTH OF THE RIVER. ALSO, THE PRG DEL AND THE GVN DEL HAVE NOT YET AGREED ON THE SCHEDULE FOR RELEASES. KIM DID NOT THINK THESE WERE MAJOR PROBLEMS.

3. KIM SAID THE THIRD PROBLEM WAS VERY IMPORTANT.

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ORIGINALLY, THE PRG DEL SAID THEY HAD OVER 400 MILITARY AND 250

CIVILIAN PRISONERS TO RELEASE, HOWEVER, AT THE LATEST MEETING, THE PRG DEL ONLY CLAIMED SOME 150 MILITARY AND 61 CIVILIAN PRISONERS AVAILABLE FOR RELEASE. KIM SAID THE GVN IS CONVINCED THE COMMUNISTS ARE STILL HOLDING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF RVNAF AND CIVILIAN PRISONERS AND WANTS SOME RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

4. COLONEL KIM CITED THE EXAMPLE OF A FEBRUARY ISSUE OF A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN HANOI WHICH HAD A PICTURE IN WHICH AN ARVN PRISONER APPEARED. THAT PRISONER HAS NOT YET RETURNED. KIM SAID THE GVN DEL WAS PREPARING A PROTEST, USING THE PHOTO, WHICH WILL BE SENT TO THE ICCS.

5. IN A RELATED CONVERSATION, COLONEL DUONG HIEU NGHIA, KIM'S BOSS ON THE GVN DEL, SAID THE GVN DEL HAD NOT YET TABLED THE GVN DEL DRAFT ON SAFETY ASSURANCES FOR ICCS TRAVEL THROUGH PRG AREAS. HE SAID THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM, AT A RELEASE SITE IN QUANG TRI, BUT THAT OTHER RELEASES COULD NOT START UNTIL THE ICCS RECEIVED ASSURANCES. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE GVN WOULD RELEASE ITS PRISONERS WITHOUT RECIPROCAL RELEASES BY THE COMMUNISTS.

6. REGARDING THE CONTINUING RUMORS OF AN IMMINENT INVITATION TO THE POLISH AND CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES, NGHIA SAID THE AGREEMENT IS STILL "INPRINCIPLE" ONLY. THE PRG DEL STILL INSISTS IT HAS NO CAMPS OR OTHER PLACES OF DETENTION.
WHITEHOUSE

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